

May 6th, 2003

## **CRUISE ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Charter Vessel *F/V Pacific Explorer* 2003**

The chartered vessel *F/V Pacific Explorer* will depart Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on July 12, 2003 to conduct a tagging survey of Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Islands. The *Pacific Explorer* will complete the charter in Dutch Harbor, Alaska on July 26, 2003.

## **AREA OF OPERATION**

Trawling and tagging operations will begin near Amchitka Island inside and outside of Steller sea lion critical habitat and, if time allows, continue to Seguam Pass where operations will be completed. The vessel will return to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, at the end of the cruise.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of this survey is to tag Atka mackerel inside and outside of Steller sea lion critical habitat near Amchitka Island and Seguam Pass areas. Secondary objectives include conducting a tag-mortality study and other special biological projects such as collecting gonads and otoliths.

## **METHODS AND GEAR**

Trawling for Atka mackerel will proceed within the Amchitka Island and Seguam Pass areas both inside and outside of critical habitat for about 15 days. The goal is to tag two to three times as many fish inside critical habitat as outside critical habitat. The potential number of tagged fish for the entire cruise is about 20,000 (12,000 in the Amchitka Island area and 8,000 in the Seguam Pass area). Other projects will include a tag mortality study using two of the 12 tanks aboard the vessel, and collecting Atka mackerel gonads and otoliths.

**SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL SCHEDULE**  
***F/V Pacific Explorer***

Susanne McDermott	Field Party Leader	AFSC/S
Libby Logerwell	Biologist	AFSC/S
Kimberly Rand	Biologist	AFSC/S
Bob Lauth	Biologist	AFSC/S
to be announced	Student Intern	AFSC/S
Ivonne Ortiz	Student RA	UW/AFSC/S
Teresa A'mar	Student RA	UW/AFSC/S

AFSC/S = Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington

UW = University of Washington

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